https://www.city.kure.lg.jp/soshiki/111/ **Illustrations created by Microsoft Copilot & いうすと

As the year draws to a close and December arrives, thoughts naturally turn to *Christmas*. More than just a festive occasion, Christmas invites us to reflect on its deeper origins and enduring symbols. It marks the *Nativity of Jesus Christ*, the founder of Christianity. Although December 25th is widely regarded as *his* birthday, the New Testament makes no mention of a specific date, stating only that Jesus was born in **Bethlehem**. The date was established centuries later, likely to coincide with Roman pagan festivals celebrating the winter solstice and the sun god. By aligning Christ's birth with existing traditions, early Church leaders helped Christianity take root within Roman culture. Among Christmas's

most familiar symbols is the tree, often a fir or spruce. Its year-round greenery has come to represent *eternal* life and enduring vitality. The star placed at its top recalls the *Star of Bethlehem, said to have guided the wise men to Christ's birthplace. Decorations also carry symbolic weight: Bells ring out in celebration of the birth. Red ornaments echo the forbidden fruit from the

Garden of Eden. Candy canes, shaped like shepherds' crooks, represent Jesus as the Good Shepherd, guiding his followers. The figure of Santa Claus originates from Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century bishop from Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). Known for his generosity and kindness to children, Nicholas is the subject of



many legends. One recounts how he secretly gave gold coins to save three impoverished daughters from being sold into servitude. According to tradition, one of the bags of coin landed in a stocking hung by the fire—thus inspiring the modern custom of Christmas stockings. These days, more and more families are decorating their entire homes with Christmas lights. While a lively party is

always fun, perhaps this year you might also enjoy a quiet moment with your family—reflecting on the meaning behind each ornament on the tree and sharing thoughts together. Surely, a lovely gift from Saint Nicholas will find its way to you, too. Director Hosokawa



Published monthly on the 10th No.347 [Editorial and Publishing Office] At the end of September, Hiro Community Development Center 2-1-3 Hiro Koshingai, Kure City, Total 42,057 (-82) Hiroshima 737-0112

Population of HIRO compared to August

●M E N 20,375 (-32)

2 71-2151 **■** 73-5034 **●**WOMEN 21,682 (-50)

"If you do not succeed at first, you must continue working until you do, without ever allowing interruption. Most people in this world fail because they lose patience and grow weary before reaching success. To accomplish anything, one must be steadfast to the point of seeming foolish. Talent alone is not enough to succeed."— *Katsu Kaishū



Notice from Hiro Community Development Promotion Cou 77th Hiro District Education Festival Sun, Dec 23

Opening Event 9:00 – 9:15, Entrance Hall Featuring performances by **Tokufu** Kindergarten and **Tokufu** Nursery School

Large-Scale Calligraphy Performance 10:00 – 11:15,

1st Floor Gallery Presented by Hiro-Ko, Kure-Sho, Ichi-Kure **Historical Lecture** 12:40 – 13:30, 3rd Floor Hall

Topic: "The Hiro Naval Arsenal and the 11th Naval Air Arsenal" Speaker: Mr. Kenji Aihara (Historian) Hiro-minami Junior High School Student Council

Activity Report 13:30 – 13:40, 3rd Floor Hall Shin-Hiro Ondo Dance Performance 13:40 – 13:50,

3rd Floor Hall Performed by the Hiro District Women's association

Hiro District Education Merit Awards Ceremony 13:50 – 14:30, 3rd Floor Hall

Cultural Lecture 15:00 – 16:30, 3rd Floor Hall Topic: "Everyone's Carp!!" - The Spirit of Those Who Fight for Their Hometown - An analysis of the pride of our community, Carp 2025

Speaker: Mr. *Yoshihiko Takahashi* MC: Ms. *Hiroko Seiro*

Admission tickets (¥500) are now on sale at the Hiro Civic Center.

Notice from Hiro C. D. Center Registration will open on Sat, Dec 20 Handmade Sweets Workshop A handmade shortcake to give for Valentine's Day

Who: 4th–9th graders (4th–9th graders must be accompanied by a parent or guardian)

Date & Time: Sun, Jan 25, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Fee: 2,000 JPY Capacity: 10 participants

Opening Hours: 9:30 AM – 8:00 PM

Closed: Thursdays & National Holidays

December Closures: 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

New Year Holiday: Dec. 28th (Sun) - Jan. 4th (Sun), Reopens→Jan. 5th(Mon)

Babar's Christmas Storvtime

Date & Time: Saturday, Dec. 13 10:30 AM – 11:10 AM **Venue**: Hiro Civic Center, 6F Room 604 (*Tatami* Room) *Advance registration is required for participation.

Further details will be announced via in-library notices and on our official Facebook page once they are finalized.

Registration: Please apply in person at the Kure City Hiro Library counter or by telephone.

Inquiries: Kure City Hiro Library Tel: 71-7470

Notice from Senior Support Division Build Healthy Habits with the 'MinChalle' App for Seniors

Description: Share your daily steps and photos through an app, and enjoy building a habit of regular exercise with friends.

Eligibility: Residents of Kure City aged 65 or older who own a smartphone and can participate in both sessions.

Dates & Time: Session 1: Saturday, December 6 Session 2: Saturday, December 13 10:00 – 11:30 AM **Location**: Hiro Community Development Center, 6th Floor, 601 **Capacity**: 20 participants (firstcome, first-served) **Registration**: By phone starting November 20 **Fee**: Free (participants cover any data charges for app use)

Smartphone Basics & Safe Internet Use

Description: Learn how to use the internet safely and responsibly while enjoying the digital world with confidence.

Date & Time: Tuesday, December 16, 2:00 – 4:15 PM

Location: Hiro Community Development Center, 6th Floor, 601

Capacity: 15 participants (first-come, first-served) **Fee**: Free **Registration**: By phone starting 8:30 AM, November 20

For inquiries, please contact Senior Support Division. Tel: 25-3104

Where: Hiro Civic Center, 6th Floor, Room 603

Enjoyable and Healthy Medicinal Cooking

☆The food was delicious, and I had a wonderful time. ☆I truly enjoyed the experience. ☆The hands-on session was conducted with great care, and I learned a lot thanks to the instructor's extensive knowledge. ☆Everything was very tasty. ☆I will definitely come again next time. ☆Living

alone, I really appreciated the opportunity to enjoy this experience sessions could be increased from twice a year to three times. \$\prims I hope



you consider holding sessions on weekends, holidays, or in the evenings on weekdays to make participation easier. ☆It was great to be able to connect

and interact with a variety of people. \$\times\$ The explanation of medicinal cuisine (*Yakuzen*) was very clear and easy to understand. ☆Although I usually can't make desserts like these at home, I really enjoyed preparing them with everyone. $\angle I$ had such a fun time. $\angle I$ with so many different dishes. I feel more motivated to cook at home. ☆I always look forward to participating in the *Yakuzen* cooking charming—it makes the experience even more enjoyable.

Parent-Child Pasta Making Class Let's Make *Carbonara for Lunch!

☆The pasta noodles had a wonderfully chewy texture and were participate in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. ☆It was a truly enjoyable experience.

☆The instructions were very clear and easy to follow, ✓



and I'm glad we had the opportunity to make pasta from scratch. ☆When I asked my child to "tear and cut" the dough, they had difficulty understanding the appropriate size, which led to some extra work. It would be helpful if more specific size guidelines could be provided.

Thank you very much for participating in our short-term courses. We truly appreciate your warm feedback and helpful suggestions. We will continue to offer enjoyable programs, so please check our updates and join us again!



Announcement of Scheduled Closure We will be closed for the New Year **holidays from Monday, December 29 to Saturday, January 3.**

Thank you for your feedback! @ @ Notice from HIRO Sports Association \

57th Open Women's Volleyball Tournament - Results

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 (National Holiday)

Time: Opening Ceremony at 9:00 AM

Venue: Shishinyo Oak Arena **Hosted by**: Hiro Sports Association

Co-hosted by: Hiro Community Development Council

Supported by: City of Kure **Sponsored by**: *Kure Shinkin* Bank **Participants**: 132 players from 12 teams

*Block A: 1 Hiro Club KKD 2 Misakaji Elementary School Club

*Block B: 1 Nakamachi Club 2 With *Block C: 1 Hiro Club JKJ 2 Aoi Club

31st Hiro Community Japanese Archery Tournament - Results

Date: Sunday, August 24, 2025 **Time:** From 9:00 AM **Venue**: Kure City Kyudo Hall (Short Distance)

Hosted by: Hiro Sports Association

Co-hosted by: Hiro Community Development Council

Supported by: City of Kure Participants: 59 players

High School Girls Division

1st Sawako Taguchi **2nd Kokona Morisaki** 3rd An Ito (Kure Mitsuta) (Kure Mitsuta) (Kure Mitsuta)

High School Bovs Division

1st Haruto Ihara 2nd Shota Takeda 3rd Soma Kadooka (Kure Bus. HS) (Kure Mitsuta) (Kure Mitsuta)

General Women's Division

1st Yumi Okahira 2nd Chivo Obavashi 3rd Yoshie Kakihara (Kure City Kyudo Federation) (Kure City Kyudo Federation) (Hiro Sports Association)

General Men's Division

1st Hideo Minowa 2nd Seiki Shindo (Hiro Sports Association)

(Hiro Sports Association)

3rd Satoshi Kashiwamoto (Hiro Sports Association)

Best Award Top Overall Archer

Haruto Ihara (Kure Bus. HS)

Notice of Community Walk Event Date: Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Meeting Place: Hiro Civic Center **Meeting Time**: 9:00 AM

Course: A 6km Walk Around O-biro and

Hiro Civic Center → Along the Kurose River → Shinkōji Bridge →Yokojī Area → Hinode Bridge → Return to Hiro Civic Center **Please note**: The event or course may be changed or canceled due to

weather or other circumstances.

Inquiries: Mr. **Hori** – 080-1919-6088

Notice from "Hirohiro-ba" Wiggles & Giggles: Animal Music Party!

Eligibility: Parents with children aged 0–2 and preschoolers aged 3 and older. Siblings of participating children are also welcome.

Date & Time: Saturday, November 29, 2025,

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Kure Lifelong Learning Center.

4th Floor Music Hall *6-2-9 Chūō, Kure City,

Program: A performance presented by LCF, a student volunteer circle from Hiroshima International University.

Capacity: 200 participants **Fee**: Free of charge

Not at Hiro Civic Center

From the Hiro Collaboration Center

At the Hiro Collaboration Center, we regularly share information about volunteer opportunities and community events. Our display area features local newsletters, group announcements,

and maps of the Kure area. If you're interested in finding out more about what's happening locally, feel

free to stop by. We're located on the 4th floor of the Hiro Civic Center.

Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM **Closed**: Wednesdays



Editorial Note Thoughts on the Winter Solstice

December 22 (Monday) marks the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. It is more than an astronomical event—it carries a deep philosophy: When darkness reaches its height, light begins to return. The darkest moment is also the beginning of new light. Even in times of deep shadow, hope always follows. Traditional customs such as vuzu baths and fire rituals on the solstice are expressions of wisdomways to kindle small lights and warm both body and spirit amid the cold and darkness. Just as unseen seeds quietly begin to sprout beneath the soil, the

stillness of winter is a season for inner growth and renewal. This winter solstice, take a soothing yuzu bath, enjoy pumpkin dishes, and trust in the light within yourself as you take small steps forward. Beyond the darkness, spring surely awaits. Let us close this year with that quiet hope in our hearts.



